



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Prevent. Protect. Prepare.

Pat McCrory, Governor

Frank L. Perry, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairs of House Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

From: Frank L. Perry, Secretary, NC DPS
Gregory K. Baker, Commissioner of Law Enforcement, NC DPS
William Grey, Commander, NC State Highway Patrol

SUBJECT: VIPER Legislative Update

Date: July 1, 2015

Pursuant of Section 16B.5.(b) of Session Law 2013-360, The Department of Public Safety shall report to the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety on a quarterly basis on the progress of the State's VIPER system.

Network Status - 241 total sites planned for statewide coverage of which 210 sites are constructed and on-the-air representing 88% completion. 31 sites require funding (\$7M legislative funds began FY14-15). 5 additional new sites are being added by counties joining VIPER to increase coverage required by local users. 74,788 users are currently on the VIPER Network consisting of 287 Emergency Responding agencies (including federal, state and local agencies).

P25 Upgrade Status - System conversion to P25 was completed on 25 June 2014 (ahead of schedule). Feedback from end user agencies indicated seamless, painless transition and a non-event for on the street officers. Backlog of all pending VIPER ID requests have been cleared with over 6,000 additional radios being added in the first 90 days following the conversion.

Tower Upgrade Status - Fifty two (52) sites required modifications to the tower structure to be able to accommodate additional microwave dishes in support of the P25 migration. The additional microwave dishes are needed to support the increased network requirements for P25. Tower upgrades needed to support P25 were completed ahead of the June conversion, however significant costs incurred due to changes in tower structural standards (ANSI-F standard moved to ANSI-G) prior to funding for P25 being available.

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Procurement and Funding Progress - An additional \$7M recurring will commence 1 July, 2015 and will continue until construction of the remaining unfunded tower sites is completed.

Position Management Status - Of the thirteen (13) new positions approved, twelve (12) have been hired. The remaining one (1) position, Tower Maintenance Supervisor, has remained unfilled due to the inability to find a qualified applicant as the position is currently posted. This is a critical position and will need to be filled with a qualified applicant.

New Tower Construction Progress – Recent site activations include Lagoon and upcoming new site activations include Potato Knob and Rendezvous Mountain. Fifteen (15) new sites have been identified for new construction as funding becomes available. No additional site construction from Federal grant dollars is expected due to changes in the performance period for use of federal funding.

P25 Moving Forward – We continue to add additional users to the system, now that ID's are available. We have approved four (4) additional vendors to be able to supply P25 compliant radios for use on VIPER, bringing the total approved vendors to six (6). Additional sites are coming on-line resulting from several new counties joining VIPER and purchasing supplemental sites to improve coverage or to replace coverage lost through changes in some of our current partnership agreements. Additional channels are being added to some sites to balance load and VIPER intends to look hard at locations where counties need to add channels to reduce system busies.